Agenda Date: 5/11/07 Agenda Item: 5C



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Board of Public Utilities Two Gateway Center Newark, NJ 07102 www.bpu.state.nj.us

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF UNITED WATER NEW JERSEY, UNITED WATER TOMS RIVER, UNITED WATER LAMBERTVILLE, UNITED WATER MID-ATLANTIC AND GAZ de FRANCE FOR APPROVAL AS NEED FOR A CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP AND CONTROL

DIVISION OF WATER

PREHEARING ORDER

DOCKET NO. WM06110767

SERVICE LIST ATTACHED

BY THE BOARD:

BACKGROUND

1. NATURE OF PROCEEDINGS AND ISSUES TO BE RESOLVED:

The above-captioned matter concerns a petition submitted on behalf of the New Jersey regulated utility subsidiaries of United Water Resources (that is, United Water New Jersey, United Water Toms River, United Water Lambertville, and the regulated entities owned by United Water Mid-Atlantic), together with Gaz de France, requesting the Board of Public Utilities' approval for a change in ownership and control pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-51.1 with regard to the merger of Gaz de France and Suez, the ultimate parent corporation of United Water Resources. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 1:1-13.1, a prehearing conference regarding the above-referenced matter was held on March 30, 2007. In attendance were representatives of United Water and its counsel (hereinafter referred to as the "Company"), the Division of Rate Counsel (hereinafter referred to as "Rate Counsel"), and the Staff of the Board of Public Utilities (hereinafter referred to as "Board Staff"), as well as counsel for the Board. Upon consideration of the positions put forth by all parties in attendance, Board Staff makes, and the Board adopts, the following recommendations as to the prehearing requirements set out in the regulations.

2. PARTIES AND ATTORNEYS OR REPRESENTATIVES

For Petitioners Walton Hill, Esq., Vice President,

Regulatory Business

United Water

Management Services 200 Old Hook Road

Harrington Park, NJ 07640

Steven B. Genzer, Esq. Mark Mucci, Esq. Colleen Foley, Esq. Saul Ewing LLP One Riverfront Plaza Newark NJ 07102

For the Division of Rate Counsel Paul Flanagan, Esq.

Debra F. Robinson, Esq. Division of Rate Counsel 31 Clinton Street, 11th Floor

P.O. Box 46005 Newark, NJ 07101

For Board of Public Arlene Pasko, DAG Utilities Staff Alex Moreau DAG

Alex Moreau, DAG Division of Law

124 Halsey Street, 5th Floor

Newark, NJ 07101

Board of Public Utilities Staff Members Mark Beyer, Chief Economist, Econ.

Robert W. Wojciak, Econ.

Mike Tavani, Écon. Christine Lin, Econ.

Maria Moran, Bureau Chief, Division of Water

Rupal Patel, Division of Water New Jersey Board of Public Utilities

Two Gateway Center Newark, NJ 07102

3. SPECIAL LEGAL REQUIREMENTS AS TO NOTICE OF HEARING:

One public hearing is scheduled to be held on or about May 15, 2007, at a time and location to be announced. A draft notice is to be circulated to the parties by the petitioners.

4. SCHEDULE OF HEARING DATES, TIME AND PLACE:

Hearings will be held on June 11, 12, and 13, 2007, before Commissioner Christine V. Bator. Hearings will commence at 10:00 a.m. in the 8th Floor hearing room of the Board of Public Utilities, Two Gateway Center, Newark, New Jersey.

5. STIPULATIONS:

None.

6. SETTLEMENT:

Settlement conference(s) among the parties are encouraged and may be convened at the convenience of the parties without prior approval or knowledge of the Board.

7. AMENDMENTS TO PLEADINGS:

The petition submitted by the Company will be updated to account for the expedited timing of the transaction. The Company shall also provide all outstanding exhibits to their testimony that have not yet been supplied as the information to complete them becomes available.

8. CASE EVENTS AND DATE FOR COMPLETION:

The Board has carefully considered the scheduling proposals set forth on in informal basis by the parties in attendance at the Prehearing Conference of March 30, 2007. Based upon those submissions, as well as the needs of the Board, the following schedule has been set:

Prehearing conference March 30, 2007

Public notice TBA

Petitioner's prefiled testimony Direct testimony to be filed on or

before April 24, 2007

Last date for discovery requests on Petitioner's April 30, 2007

prefiled testimony*

Last date for responses to discovery requests on May 11, 2007

Petitioner's prefiled testimony

Reply prefiled testimony May 25, 2007

Last date for discovery requests on reply prefiled testimony

May 30, 2007

Last date for responses to discovery requests on reply prefiled testimony

June 8, 2007

Petitioner's prefiled rebuttal testimony

N/A. Upon agreement of the parties, Petitioner will provide oral rebuttal testimony at the hearing

Last date for discovery requests on rebuttal testimony

N/A. See above.

Last date for discovery responses on rebuttal testimony

N/A. See above.

Public Hearing

On or about May 15, 2007

Evidentiary Hearings

June 11, 12, 13, 2007

Initial Briefs

To be scheduled upon conclusion

of the hearing.

Reply Briefs

To be scheduled upon conclusion

of the hearing.

Board Decision

Expected forty-five (45) days after

reply briefs are filed.

*Discovery may commence immediately

9. ORDER OF PROOFS:

- 1. Petitioner
- 2. Ratepayer Advocate
- 3. Others (if necessary)
- 4. Board Staff

10. EXHIBITS MARKED FOR IDENTIFICATION:

None at this time.

11. EXHIBITS MARKED IN EVIDENCE:

None at this time.

12. ESTIMATED NUMBER OF FACT AND EXPERT WITNESSES:

Petitioner 2 (approximately)

Ratepayer Advocate 1 (approximately)

Board Staff None contemplated at this time.

13. MOTIONS CONTEMPLATED, PENDING OR GRANTED:

None.

14. OTHER SPECIAL MATTERS:

None.

Therefore, upon consideration of the forgoing, the Board HEREBY ISSUES this prehearing order. The Board FURTHER ORDERS that Commissioner Bator, as the presiding Commissioner, is HEREBY AUTHORIZED to modify the schedule set by this Order without the need for full Board approval, subject to subsequent Board ratification.

PRESIDENT

DATED:

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

BY:

FREDERICK F. BUTLER

COMMISSIONER

CONNIE O. HUGHES COMMISSIONER

JOSEPH L. FIORDALISO

COMMISSIONER

CHRISTINE V. BATOR COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the within document is a true copy of the original in the files of the Board of Public

Utilities

SECRETARY

SERVICE LIST

In the Matter of the Petition of United Water New Jersey, United Water Toms River, United Water Lambertville, United Water Mid-Atlantic and Gaz De France for Approval as Need for a Change In Ownership and Control

Docket No. WF06110767

Mark Beyer Board of Public Utilities Two Gateway Center Newark, NJ 07102 Arlene Pasko, DAG Division of Law 124 Halsey Street, 5th Floor Newark, NJ 07101 Walton Hill, Vice President Regulatory Business United Water Management Service 200 Old Hook Road Harrington Park, NJ 07640

Robert Wojciak Board of Public Utilities Two Gateway Center Newark, NJ 07102 Alex Moreau, DAG Division of Law 124 Halsey Street, 5th Floor Newark, NJ 07101

Michael Tavani Board of Public Utilities Two Gateway Center Newark, NJ 07102 Steven B. Genzer, Esq. Saul Ewing, LLP One Riverfront Plaza, 5th Floor Newark, NJ 07102

Christine Lin Board of Public Utilities Two Gateway Center Newark, NJ 07102 Paul Flanagan, Esq. Division of Rate Counsel 31 Clinton Street, 11th Floor P.O. Box 46005 Newark, NJ 07101

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Rupal Patel Board of Public Utilities Two Gateway Center Newark, NJ 07102

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